corrective action has been initiated.

There is a Committee at the Headquarters, under an Officer of Additional Secretary's level to monitor implementation of Government instructions on Reservations. Meetings of the Committee at regular intervals arc being held at the Headquarters to monitor the implementation of these instructions.

Other steps taken to further streamline the system include:

(i) Reiteration of instructions for completing the Rosters and submitting the compliance report by 31.3.1996.

(ii) Accountability for keeping the rosters up-to date.

(iii) An Official with wide experience of handling reservation policy has been made inchargc of SCT Cell of the Department of Telecommunications Head-quarters.

Making ricc-shclling. free of licence

*351. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ricc-shclling has been made free of licence;

(b) if so, whether levy on rice shelling has also been removed; and

(c) if n>^;, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has introduced a bill in the Parliament for the repeal of Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958. When this bill is passed, any person will be free to install a rice mill without any permit/licence in any state of the country.

(b) and (c) Even after the Rice Milling Industry is dcliccnscd, the levy system for rice milling industry will continue, as levy on rice is essential for the procurement of rice for the Central Pool in order to meet the requirements of the Public Distribution System/Revamped Public Distribution System.

Expanding Communications Network in Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh

*352. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government have made any study to expand the network of communications in the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) what is the number of telephone exchanges operating in this area, district-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of such exchanges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; ani* if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, study has been made to expand the communications net work eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The number of telephone exchanges operating in this area district-wise is enclosed in statmcnt-I *(See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The detailed proposals of the new exchanges to be opened during 1995-96 in these eight hill districts are given in Statement II.

Statement - I

SI. No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges Operating
1	2	3
1.	Almora	32
2.	Chamoli	31
3.	Dchradun	24
4.	Nainital	55